

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 EUR-12 /095 W

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R 130842Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5933

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0094

BANGKOK ALSO FOR CORCORAN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, LA

SUBJECT: REMARKS BY THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO LAOS

1. ON JANUARY 10 THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO LAOS, B. DEVA
RAO, MADE A SPEECH AT A CEREMONY MARKING THE ARRIVAL AT
VIENTIANE OF THE SECOND OF A PLANNED FOUR SHIPMENTS OF AID
TO LAOS FROM INDIA. THE FIRST SHIPMENT CONSISTED OF
BICYCLES AND SEWING MACHINES, THE SECOND CONSISTS OF 52 CASES
OF MEDICINE AND THE LAST TWO ARE TO BE CLOTH AND IRRIGATION PUMPS.

2. IN HIS REMARKS, RAO WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO ACCLAIM LAOS'S
"VICTORY" OVER "IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM"
BY WHICH HE PRESUMABLY MEANS THE UNITED STATES AND, TO A
LESSER DEGREE, FRANCE. HE DESCRIBED INDIAN LEADERS AS ADMIRING AND
CONGRATULATING THE "LAO PEOPLE" FOR THEIR "BRILLIANT
VICTORY"... "AFTER A HEROIC, HARD AND STUBBORN STRUGGLE AGAINST

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THE INTERFERENCE OF IMPERIALIST, COLONIALIST AND NEO-COLONIALIST AND

FOREIGN MILITARY BASES." HE ALSO DESCRIBED THE RECENT CONFLICTS IN LAOS, VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA AS "INFLICTED BY THE EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE OF IMPERIALISTS, COLONIALISTS AND NEO-COLONIALISTS."

3. RAO NOTED THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY LAOS AT THE LIMA

CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, TO A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING "AGGRESSIVE NAVAL BASES" IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, "PARTICULARLY THAT ON THE ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA." HE CONCLUDED THAT "THE LAO PEOPLE AND THE INDIAN PEOPLE SHARE THE SAME IDEALS AND THE SAME COMMON PRINCIPLES: TO CONSOLIDATE AND DEFEND HUMAN JUSTICE, THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF ALL COUNTRIES, AND THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF ALL COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY DEVELOPING AND NON-ALIGNED ONES."

4. COMMENT: RAO COULD, OF COURSE, HAVE GIVEN A PERFECTLY RESPECTABLE SPEECH AT THIS MODEST OCCASION WITHOUT ANY GRATUITOUS INSULTS TO THE UNITED STATES AND WITH FEWER ENCOMIUMS TO THE NEW COMMUNIST REGIME IN LAOS. GIVEN THE RECENT STEPS TOWARD SUPPRESSION OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS IN BOTH LAOS AND INDIA, HIS REMARKS ABOUT SHARED IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES HAVE AN IRONY WHICH WE PRESUME HE DID NOT INTEND.
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